

14 May 1953

Mr. Richard D. Marriott
Head, BBC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading, Berks., England

Dear Richard:

One of the things we discussed during my recent visit was the duplication of material filed from Okinawa and from Reseda, California, to the BBC.

I have asked our people to look into the coordination arrangements carefully and have also asked them to justify, if possible, the existing duplication. The attached memorandum to me from the Chief of our Editorial Branch explains the present arrangement and in general terms, justifies duplicate filing when it occurs.

I am not thoroughly satisfied, however, and we are running a watch here in Washington on all Chinese material for the week of 17 through 23 May. If the results of this survey confirm the findings of the attached memorandum, I suppose we can do no more. If, on the other hand, there appears to be unnecessary duplication, we will take further steps to eliminate it.

Sincerely,

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Chief, FBID

13 May 1953

Acting Chief, Editorial Branch

Duplicate Filing to BBC of Peking Home Service
and NCNA Material

1. BBC intercepts NCNA English Morse but receives from our West Coast and Okinawa bureaus a full file of Peking Home and NCNA material intercepted at those bureaus except items which at the time of filing are detectable as duplications.

2. Of Peking's voicecasts, the West Coast supplies BBC with material from four Home Service programs daily. Okinawa supplies BBC with material from three Home Service casts, all regionals intercepted, suitable International Service texts, and all NCNA Numeral Code material processed.

3. The West Coast provides Okinawa with content-logs, or summaries, of its voice and NCNA Morse interception. Okinawa checks these against its own coverage to avoid unnecessary duplication both in processing and in filing.

4. Despite these safeguards, a certain amount of duplication is inevitable for the following reasons:

A. An important or urgent item intercepted at Okinawa will be filed immediately without regard to possible duplication from the West Coast occurring in the meantime.

B. The West Coast files to Washington its entire NCNA English Morse coverage, even though some of it may duplicate Peking's voicecasts. This duplication is welcomed by Washington's editors, as the English Morse is used as confirmatory copy, particularly where names and statistics are concerned, and often makes specific queries to the field unnecessary. In addition, some of the duplicate English Morse is occasionally published in part, or cited in editorial notes, to indicate obvious divergencies between Home and NCNA versions. To BBC, however, which has already intercepted the English Morse, our Peking Home contributions may at such times appear altogether gratuitous even though they were in fact filed before NCNA began transmitting.

C. Occasional lapses on the part of field editors, especially new ones.

5. Virtually no duplication occurs as between Numeral Code and other media. That which does occur, as pointed out above, does not appear to be more than can be reasonably expected.